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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/635,956	08/10/2000	Timothy C. Loose	47079-00058	6262

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EXAMINER

COBURN, CORBETT B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/635,956

Applicant(s)

LOOSE, TIMOTHY C.

Examiner

Corbett B. Coburn

Art Unit

3714

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 19 February 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) ☒ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☐ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☐ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☒ will not be entered or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____

Claim(s) objected to: _____

Claim(s) rejected: 1-29.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
10. ☒ Other: See Attached

Tom Hughes
S. THOMAS HUGHES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 19 February 2003 have been fully considered and are not persuasive.

2. Applicant argues that device drivers are not configuration data. This is in error.

Applicant makes a great deal of the fact that device drivers are programs. This is true – but programs **are** data. Furthermore, no device driver can function without data on the configuration of a particular piece of hardware. By loading the device drivers for a particular set of peripheral hardware, McGlone is loading configuration data.

3. Applicant states that it would not reduce the number of parts or cost to have the configuration data downloaded by the CPU to the reel controllers. This is opinion and is not supported by any evidence. Examiner has made a prima face case of obviousness. If Applicant believes that the asserted reasons to combine are in error, Applicant must present evidence that the reason to combine is in error.

4. Applicant states that, "significant motivation exists for not reporting a status of configuration of the local microcontroller back to the CPU." Again, this is a statement unsupported by evidence.

5. Applicant argues that McGlone "teaches away" from spinning the reel to determine the type of encoder associated therewith. Applicant is under a misconception concerning the meaning of "teaches away". When a reference "teaches away" from a concept, it teaches that the concept cannot work. A reference that teaches another way of achieving a desired result does not necessarily "teach away" from other methods of achieving the result.

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6. Applicant argues that McGlone “teaches away” from the CPU issuing a high-level command for informing the reel controller of an acceleration or deceleration profile. Again, McGlone does not “teach away” from this concept. McGlone does not teach a high-level command for informing the reel controller of an acceleration or deceleration profile because McGlone’s slot machine does not have the acceleration/deceleration profile feature. By the same token, McGlone does not teach that the slot machine cannot have this feature. Sakomoto teaches this feature. The acceleration/deceleration profile feature adds to the visual appeal of the slot machine. It cannot be implemented unless the reel controller has the profile supplied to it by the CPU.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (703) 305-3319. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on (703) 308-1806. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'cbc' followed by a stylized flourish.

cbc

March 4, 2003